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THE ELLIS FAMILY

OF

JASPER COUNTY GEORGIA - 1963

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THE ELLIS FAMILY OF JASPER COUNTY GEORGIA - 1963

Much that we know of the Ellis Family is tradition, but can be considered as authentic, as most of the following information was given to me by Rufus H. Smith and by William F. Ellis, both are grandsons of James Ellis and of James Smith, another ancestor, whose plantation adjoined that of James Ellis on the south.

I am also indebted to Mrs Tinie Ellis and to Durell Smith for their interest and help - also to Richard Bennett who has so kindly multigraphed these records.

Some data is from county records, and from the D. S. R. historical records in the state archives in Atlanta.

Any mistakes and omissions are unintentional. This paper is lovingly dedicated to my late husband, John Bowden Ellis.

Clara T. Thompson Ellis
Monticello, Georgia
October, 1963

Obtained from:
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

[redacted]

FAMILY ORIGIN AND COAT OF ARMS

Arms: Or, on a cross sable, five cresents argent (silver)

Crest: A female figure naked proper with hair flowing down to her waist.

Motto: "Non Haec Sine Numine"
(Hot here without the divine will)
or (not existing without the divine will)

ELLIS

This family name has been written in many ways. A few are Ellis, Ellice, Elys, Alys, and Allie. The original home of the family was located in the north of Wales, although branches were to be found in parts of England, Scotland and Ireland.

The first authentic ancestor is said to have been Kendrick, Lord of Whittington. He was killed during the invasion of Wales by the English in 1073. He is descended from Howel Dha, or the Good, who united the many principalities ofWales into one kingdom in the 10th century. Another member of the family was Archibald Elys who went with Richard the Lion-Hearted on the Third Crusade (1187 - 1190). The cross and crescents on the Ellis coat-of-arms commemorate his exploits

The first member of this family to come to America was Richard Ellice or Ellis, who sailed on the ship "Lion" from London in 1632. From him was descended Timothy Ellis who was a veteran of the French and Indian Wars. He and his four sons were among the patriots who fought at Bunker Hill. He was a member of the New Hampshire Provincial Congress in 1775 and later became a member of the House of Representatives.

Members of this distinguished family can be found throughout the United States, well represented in the fields of the arts and professions.

The Greeks claim the name, Elys, was originally Greek before Wales came into being. We find that there is an Elis Mountain as well as an Elis family name.

[redacted]

I do not have access to many authentic records, but I do find that in 1790 the Indians ceded large tracts of land to the state and it likely was at this time the tract of land extending to the east bank of the Ocmulgee River was ceded. The Indians specified the east bank of the Ocmulgee River as the line, thus reserving their fishing rights, and it is still the western boundary of Jasper County.

I do not know when Baldwin County was formed, but it is reported to have extended from the Oconee River on the east to the Ocmulgee on the west. In 1807 it was divided into several counties and from it was formed Jones, Putnam and Randolph.

Randolph County, later Jasper, lay in the northwest corner of the tract. I would think that all of the county was covered in the lottery held in Milledgeville, county seat of Baldwin. This lotter was held in 1807 at Milledgeville. I understand that the tracts consisted of 160 acres and were given largely to those who had helped drive out the Indians.

The Indians had likely moved out after the treaty of 1790 and many people had already moved into this area. Some were veterans and many were sons of Veterans of the American Revolution who had grown to manhood since the close of the war 25 years before, and were seeking homes in the new lands being opened for homesteading.

Many of these were from Virginia and we can easily see who the new county was named Randolph for the eminent John Randolph of Virginia, and that the county seat, established in 1808 was named Monticello for the country estate of Thomas Jefferson.

However, during the troublous times of 1812, the General Assembly became vexed with John Randolph for his stand on certain matters and they renamed the county Jasper for Sgt. Willia m Jasper who was killed while trying to retrieve a flag in the seige of Savannah.

The early records of the county and of the lottery were lost when Sherman burned the public buildings in 1864 in Milledgeville, then the capital of the State.

One James Ellis drew a lot in the northern half of Randolph County. This lot is about seven miles north of Monticello and is in what is now Minter and Gilstrap district.

James Ellis claimed to have been the first man to occupy his lot of land in this section. He came on horseback with his gun and his axe strapped to the saddle. Likely the other pioneers did the same and helped each other cut trees and erect one-room log cabins.

James Ellis said that he made his first crop in 1808. We can well imagine that it consisted mostly of vegetables and corn planted with a hoe between the stumps of the trees that had been felled for his cabin, the site of which was situated near a pring.

After erecting his cabin, James went back to Hancock County for his wife and two children. Some say that his wife ad two children came, all riding the same horse. This, I find hard to velieve. He more likely brought his family and supplies in an ox cart.

In the state archives I find in the historical record of the D.A.R.'s of Hancock County, Sparta, Georgia, page 29, abstract of wills, Book A.A.A., Volume A, page 29 are records of one Joshua Ellis, who seemed to be a man of means and likely was the father of James, whose youngest son bore the same of Joshua. This could be a lead to anyone interested in persuing the family line further.

Game was plentiful and the main source of the neat supply of the early settlers. One story goes that James was out hunting deer with his Indian rifle when he heard the sound of an axe. On investigating, he found the woodman to be one Hackey or Henry Walker, a childhood friend and neighbor from Delaware. This gives us our only clue to his early history.

One James Rosser Smith, another ancestor, settled on the lot adjoining on the south. According to Uncle Rufus Smith, a grandson, he was the son of Abraham, or Abraham Smith who evidently was already settled here on land near Bethel Church, now owned by the Oxfords. His will was the first filed in the New County and showed him to be a man of means and owner of slaves. His will was filed Feb. 22, 1815.

Abraham was said to have come from Hancock County and his wife was Sara Rosser, who was connected with the Rossers of Newton County. The will mentions his wife Sara R, his son, James R., and three daughters. He also mentions one Kerene Smith in his will, who likely was his sister. James R. Smith named a daughter Kerene - locally pronounced Karene. She became the wife of Joshua Ellis, the line in which my family is most interested.

Since the lots were not large, neighbors were fairly close, and after a hard day's work, it was the custom to visit at night and "sit until bedtime". This custom likely led to prayer meetings as the need to worship arose. It seems from the early records of the Monticello Methodist Church that the "County was the pastor's parish". At first he would visit in the communities and have services in the homes for several days. It is said that some families walked as many as four miles to attend these services by early candlelight. I found, by chance, in one of the record books of Monticello Church, where a formal church was formed in 1820 but it was not until 1827 that a log building was erected. This served the purpose until the present church was erected across the road. The church was called Liberty Methodist Church.

Among the early preachers was one George Pierce, who later became bishop. Also Sam Jones, who later became the famed evangelist. My husband, John Bowden Ellis, was named for one John Bowden, pastor in 1881, who became noted enough to have his portrait handing now in the lobby of the Theological School at Emory University. We find in the deeds that James Ellis was one of the founders and trustees of the church. His descendants have been closely connected with this church, and today in 1963, practically every active member is a descendant or a connection of one.

The Church was named Liberty, a name dear to those early settlers. The area around it is known as "Liberty Community", and still owned for the most part by descendants of both James Ellis and James Smith. Slaves or ex-slaves were admitted to the church until 1868.

Many members have gone out to become active and faithful members elsewhere. I would like to say here that these first families were practically all fine people from good families. Their descendants have been excellent citizens, steady, home-loving and church going people, Some have gone out to become well-to-do businessmen, etc., and contributed to the growth of the County and State.

The wife of James Ellis was Sarah Lloyd. Some time after James and Sarah established their home, Sarah's father, James Loyd, and his wife (name unknown) came and must have lived in a cottage near the western boundary of the place. According to Uncle Rufus, they were buried near a spring place there.

James Lloyd had several sons who also lived in Jasper and Newton Counties. James Lloyd claimed to have been an aide to General George Washington, and named a son George Washington Lloyd, who is an ancestor of Mrs. Chloe Lloyd Tucker, of Shady Dale, Ga.

Mrs Alma Lloyd Philips of Monticello is another descendant. They claim that the family came from Wales. I have had several who had Ellis ancestors to say that the Ellis families came from Wales also and in novels with the setting in Wales, I have seen the name Ellis. I have also been told that there were many early families of Ellises in both Virginia and South Carolina.

Many of the older people died before churches and churchyard burial grounds were established, so they were buried in selected plots on the home land. There was not enough ground near the old church for a cemetery, so most families used these family cemeteries.

The Ellis cemetery is on a rise to the north of the home site. There was orinigally a four foot rock wall around it, and part of it still is there. Inside this wall was buried one Theophilus Downs, and both James Ellis and James Smith and members of their families. Part of the wall was removed later to make room for a resting place for the three Ellis sons and their families who stayed in the region,- also for other members of the family. There are only four or five buried there that were not members of the Ellis family.

It is a sacred spot. My companion for fifty years lies there.

Since this was written I have undertaken to mark all the graves, cover them with cement and flagstones and erect an iron fence, and provide an annuity for permanent care. Five generations of my family are buried there including my first wife Lorene Ware Ellis. John B. Ellis, Jr.

Liberty School was located near the Church, and also near a bold spring. One of the few of the old springs that is still flowing. Other schools had served the area. This school was first called Walker's Academy. The deeds read "to be used for the purpose of teaching reading and writing". Here many who later were prominent citizens and leaders in church and civic affairs got their only schooling or basic education. It was established in 1853, and an article that I have that was dictated by Uncle Rufus gives the early teachers in order from 1855 until 1866. I'll pause to say that Uncle Rufus had an exceptional memory. He could name all of the preachers of Liberty Church in order as well as the teachers of the school.

Two of the teachers and quite a number of the older boys left to go to war. One teacher, George Niles, was from New Hampshire, but fought for the Confederate cause. Cousin Niles Smith was named for him, and Luther Niles Smith now bears the name. When the broad planks that ceiled the walls were painted, quite a few names inscribed on the walls were copied. Among them we find Rufus Smith, G. B. Ellis, Allen Ellis, Minnie Ellis and Johnnie Ellis and W. H. Smith.

In one corner on a side wall was written "Farewell all ye pretty girls, W. A. Kelly is going to war - March 1862.

James Ellis must have been a good Christian and business man. We know little of his daughters except Sara, who married Abram Smith, son of James Smith, who with her brothers, Henry, Samuel and Joshua made their homes here. They were excellent citizens, as well as have been their descendants.

The following is the list of the children of James and Sarah Ellis as best as I have been able to compile it, not necessarily in order.

Henry - married Caroline Lovejoy
Samuel, May 2, 1809 married Sarah Smith, daughter of James Smith.
Joshua - Married Kerene Smith - daughter of James Smith
Sara - Married Abram Smith, son of James Smith
Martha - Married Dr. John Gibson
Ben moved to Talbot County, Georgia
James, Jr. said to have lived in Pike County
Prudence married Azriah Gilstrap. They moved to Mississippe?
We find two small graves marked children of James Ellis

We have mentioned James Smith because he was closely connected with the Ellis family. Since their homes were only a few hundred yards apart, the children were closely associated, and we see that there were three intermarriages and a number of couble first cousins. One, William F. or Billy Ellis, married Aurelia Harris, and Rufus Smith married her sister, Adeline Harris. You can figure what kin their children are.

James Smith married Elizabeth Hartsfield of Oglethorpe County.

Both the Ellis and Smith lands are still owned by descendants. It is not known just when James Ellis was born or died, but records show that he died without a will, and Azriah Gilstrap, a son-in-law, was ad ministrator. The place according to records in book E, page 91 and 92, at Monticello Courty House (Jasper County) show that a son, Joshua, bought the place for $2,000.00. Later his three sons owned it, and it is now owned by Weyman and David Ellis.

The sale was made in May 1853, so we presume that James Ellis died that year. According to Durell Smith he was known as Jimmie Ellis.

Children of James Ellis

A son, Henry was said to have been the oldest, so we would suppose him to have been one of the children who came in 1807 or 1808. He married Caroline Lovejoy, whose family lived on the place now occupied by the Aldrich family.

On a map that I made in the 1920's with the help of Will Niblett and also W. F. Ellis, I find their graves outside the wall below that of Sara Ellis Doster, born July 21, 1832, died May 12, 1907. Rock put there about one hundred years ago mark their graves. At their feet are two graves. One, Anna Doster Niblett, September 29, 1855 - June 26, 1934. By her side, her husband, Tillman Niblett, April 15, 1850, died November 6, 1901.

A son, John Bryant Ellis, killed in the Civil War, is also buried there. His market records that he was in the 44th Georgia Infantry, Confederate States, U. S. A. He lost his life in the Civil War. The two cedars that his mother lovingly planted at the head and foot still stand. Henry had a son, Tom, and some notes I have say that he was killed in the war also.

Henry's daughter, Elmira married Jim Kilgore, and they moved to South Georgia.

A daughter, Sarah Anne Ellis, married John Doster. Their daughter married Jim Huff, and a son, Henry Wilkins Doster moved to Rocky Ford, Georgia; where he was a prominent physician.

Another daughter, Anna Beatrice, married Tillman Niblett. They lived in the community and reared nine children as follows:

Sara Frances m. Charlie Kilgore
William Oliver m. Mamie Wynn
John Henry m. Kate Hamby
James L. m. Jennie Turner
Bessie m. Carl Wood
Thomas Burton m. Etta Samons
Edgar M. M. Emma Nuttall, Kentucky
Herbert T. m Margie H ll
Newton m. Era Weathers

Thanks to Edgar M. Niblet for the preceding information. His family line follows:

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Edgar M. Niblett and Emma Nuttall
Son: Major Charles Tillman Niblett m. Norma Adriene Booth - Taxas

Linda Ann Niblett
Adriene
Presently - Warner Robins, Ga.
Daughter: Edwina Niblett M. Johnnie Ringo - Alabama

We have this little anecdote handed down to give us a little insight into the family life of Henry and Caroline. It is said that one morning Caroline was feeling very spry and peppy, and as she went hustling about her work she would say occasionally, "I've got the spirit today". As the morning wore on, Henry evidently got a little tired of it, so he remarked, "Caroline, I think you've got a little of the devil in you too".

Another member of Henry's family, William Oliver, son of Anna Ellis and Tillman Niblett, is buried in the family plot. He lived all of his eightly-odd years in the community, a kindly, friendly soul, and loved by all who knew him.

Children of Samuel Ellis

From the family Bible we find that Samuel Ellis was born in 1809 on May 2nd. I find the date of his death on his marker in the cemetery to be January 8, 1891. Likely he was the first child born after the family were established here.

Samuel married Sarah Smith, daughter of James and Elizabeth Smith, and lived close by both James Ellis and James Smith. Sarah was born September 17, 1825 and died in 1913. Both are buried in the family cemetery.

Their oldest son, Allen Williams, was born February 25, 1852. He married Armenia Stokes Shaw. They lived in the community all of their married life. Like all the Ellisses, they were good citizens and consistent members of Liberty Church. They are buried in Monticello, Georgia. Their children are:

Ora Bay m John Wilson
Linus M. m Grace _____
R. Marshall m. Tinie Ellis
Ruby m. Clyde Kelly
Bonnie - never married.

James Marshall, son of Samuel, is buried in the Ellis plot. Grave unmarked. Born February 21, 1854. There is also a small grave unmarked.

Another son, Samuel Whitford was born September 12, 1859. He married Mittice Thomason, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jackson Thomason. They had two

children. Sadie and Arthur. After her death he married Jennie Thomason, another daughter of the Jack Thomasons of Jasper County. They had three daughters.

Children of Samuel Whitford and Mittice Thomason

Sadie Pearl b. 9-23-88. Married Ervin Joseph Witt, Sept 23, 1906. He died June 16, 1951.
Children:
Helen Ellis Witt b. Feb. 26, 1909 m. Carl Harwell Williams Dec. 25, 1937
Children:
Edward Vincent Williams. b. 11-17-40 m. Janice Pritchard
Child:
Deborah Diane Williams b.July 31, 1959
2nd marriage: Barbara Ellen Ayers April 30, 1965
Children:
Edward Vincent Williams, Jr. b. April 20, 1974

Dorothy Adelle Witt Born Dec. 5, 1910 m. Charles Henry Jackson, Jr on Dec. 5, 1934
Children:
Phillip Marshall Jackson b. July 12, 1939 d. Dec. 20, 1959
Amy Adelle Jackson b. July 25, 1941 married Theodore George Reddy, III on July 31, 1960
Children:
Rebecca Leigh Reddy b. June 2, 1961
Patricia Lynn Reddy b. Dec. 3, 1965
Miriam Claire Witt b. July 10, 1921 married James Collins Dyer aug 2,42
Children:
Douglas Stephens Dyer, b. Aug 6, 1946 m. Carrie Evelyn Coleman Feb. 7, 1976
Meredith Jill Dyer b. Feb. 22, 1952 m. Paul Earnest Fitzpatrick

Children of Samuel Whitford and Jennie Thomason
Jennie T. Ellis, b. Sept 6, 1872 Died Jan 18, 1918
Mary Elizabeth Ellis b. May 15, 1895 d. March 20, 1917
Pauline Day Ellis b. April 14, 1897 d. April 16, 1920
Mother and two daughters buried at West View Cemetary, Atlanta, Ga.
Ethyl Melinda Ellis b. March 13, 1901 d. March 28, 1958
m. John Leander Davidson of Quitman, Ga. She was buried in Scarsdale, N. Y. He was buried in Quitman, Ga.
Nelle Thomason Ellis b. June 15, 1905 m. LaDorr Dennis Ingersoll b. Dec. 17, 1901 in Erie County New York. They have three children

Edgar Clifton, November 11, 1861, died February 5, 1937, also married a daughter of Jackson Thomason, Katherine Lucretia.

Katherine Lucretia was born August 25, 1866, died April 7, 1951. It was my privilege to know this especially fine couple. List of children follows:

Minnie Lee married Ralph Sanderford, d. June 19, 1950
Edgar Lovie
Ina Ruth
Carl Thomason
Livic Clifton
Harry
Katherine Lucretia
Elizabeth Louise

The above two families lived in the Liberty community for some years befoe moving to Atlanta.

Edgar and Katherine are buried in Decatur, Ga.

A daughter of James Ellis, Martha, married a Dr. John Gibson and lived in Monticello. She is buried in the family cemetery. They had no children.

Joshua, a younger son, bought the home place, where he and his wife, Kerene Smith, lived until their death. I never heard Father say too much about his Father, but he occasionally mentioned his Mother. He said that she was of Dutch extraction, likely on the Hartsfield side. She was only five feet tall, and almost as wide, but she though nothing of doing the morning chores, including the washing, then in the afternoon, tamking her knitting and walking two miles to visit a neighbor, or take a sack of dried peaches and a basket of eggs, and walk three miles to the store to do a little bartering for sugar, coffee and snuff and tabacco.

Joshua and Kerene raised three sons. I find two small graves marked daughter and son of Joshua. We know that he and his wife were industrious and frugal and raised their three sons to be the same. All were very loyal to the church and family connections. Joshua died in the fall of 1882, following typhoid fever, at the age of 66.Thus we find that he was born in 1816. Kerene died in 1884, and she was born about 1819 (1919). Both are buried in the cemetery on the rise above the house. The Ellis homestead was burned some years after I came to live in the community in 1909. Kerene died Dec. 13, 1884.

Dates from family Bible:

William Florence Ellis, Jan 27, 1855 - Feb. 20, 1933
married November 27, 1877 to Aurelia Harris
July 21, 1856 - Dec. 19, 1920.

Children:

Daughter - Willie Florence, July 2, 1880, nover married, died died Jan 8, 1962. Florence trained as a nurse, but after her mother's death she kept house for her father until his death.

Children of William Florence Ellis continued

John Bowden, Sept 26, 1881 d. March 23, 1960 m. Nov. 25, 1909 to Clara Thompson, Dec 23, 1886 daughter of Seaborn L. and Sophronia Strickland Thompson of Flovilla, Ga.

Children:

Sara Elizabeth b. Sept 26, 1910, d. Sept 24, 1975. Married to Gilbert Howard Gibson b. Oct 10, 1910. Son of Steven G. and Addie Chessar Gibson of Folkston, Ga. on June 24, 1939.

Children:

John Ellis Aug 28, 1941 d. Dec. 7, 1942
Saralyn b. Jan 19, 1944 Married Judson Charles Killian June 15, 1969. Born on Nov. 22, 1943, son of Samuel P. Killian, Jr. and Myrtle Hayes Killian, of Warm Springs, Ga.

Children:
Sara Elizabeth Jan 14, 1973
John Charles Feb. 14, 1975

Steven Howard. April 18, 1946

John Bowden, Jr. b. May 31, 1912 m. April 17, 1943 to Artie Lorene Ware b. Feb. 24, 1916 d. May 26, 1963 daughter of Augustus B. and Carrie Kemp Ware.

Child:
John Bowden, III (Jock) Feb. 24, 1948 m. Joy Minter, Jan 4, 1974 Born July 8, 1959 , daughter of Rev. Byron and Virginia Minter of Acworth, Ga.

Second marriage to Margaret Elizabeth Browder Reese, daughter of Arthur Rawlings and Beulah Johnson Browder of Lawrenceville, Va.

Children by 1st marriage:
Frederick O. Reese, Jr. June 4, 1943 married Gretchen Fletcher on Feb. 4, 1967 daughter of David and Gertrude Fletcher of Aurora, Ill.
Children:
Mary Elizabeth (Beth) b. May 29, 1970
David Frederick b. Nov. 26, 1972
Mary Rawlings Reese b. Sept 21, 1948
James Sylvannus Reese b. Sept 14, 1951

Florence Augusta March 8, 1915

Mary Strickland Feb 9, 1917 m. Lester Gann Davis, b. March 31, 1916 son of William P. and Katie Mary Gann Davis on June 8, 1940
Children:

Children of William Florence Ellis

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Florence Augusta March 8, 1915

Mary Strickland Feb. 9, 1917 m. Lester Gann Davis b. March 31, 1916 on June 8, 1940. Son of William P. and Katie Mary Gann Davis, Austell, Ga.

Children

Kenneth Lester Dec . 14, 1943 m. Lynne Monteath b. Dec 16, 1944 on Sept 16, 1967. Daughter of Eva and Andrew Monteath who were then living at Montego Bay, Jamica, W. I.

Children:

Kathryn Elizabeth Sept 8, 1970

Andrew Scott Oct 16, 1972

Phillip Ellis, Sept 11, 1947

Children of William Florence Ellis continued

Troy, Oct 3, 1884, married Lizzie Mae Holland, Oct 10, 1888, daughter of Leila Gertrude Cox and Richard L. Holland on June 19, 1912. d. 1-12-71

Children:
Mabel Aurelia, Sept 28, 1913, m. Aug 1, 1940 to Edward Eugene Weaver, (july 26 1913) son of Edward Eugene and Janie Knight Weaver.
Children
Edward Eugene, Jr. Nov. 21, 1941
Dorothy Elizabeth (Dottie) Nov. 3, 1942 m. George Carroll Snell on (Aug 24, 1963)

Dorothy Elizabeth, April 13, 1916, m. Kenneth Wright, Sept 26, 1947
Died April 6, 1970
Children:
Phyllis Anne, Sept 3, 1947
Penelope B. (Penny) and Elizabeth Ellis, (Betsy) Aug 16, 1948
Dorothy Elizabeth, June 16, 1950
Kenneth
Douglas July 21, 1954

Troy, Jr. April 7, 1922

Paul Jan 16, 1924 - lived only a little while.

Eula Capers, July 26, 1886 m. William Farris Thornton, son of John Wm. Carrie Jones Thornton of Jasper County on Nov. 26, 1910. Farris died March 29, 1947.

Children:
Martha. Jan 24, 1916 d. May 25, 1917

John Harris b. Oct 1, 1918, married Sara Nell Fagan, daughter of George Benjamin and Gertrude Amelia Collins Fagan.

Children:
John Harris, Jr. Dec. 20, 1947
Martha Ellen. Jan 21, 1953.

John enlisted in the Navy on October 8, 1941 and served four years. He worked his way up from apprentice seaman to Aviation Storekeeper 1st class. He served aboard the U.S.S. Atlanta, a heavy cruiser that took part in several sea battles in the Pacific. His ship participated in the battle of Midway and helped protect the Marines after their landing on Guadalcanal. John was aboard the Atlanta during the battle of Sava Sound off Guadalcanal. During this battle the ship was sunk. The survivors were taken to Guadalcanal and stayed there under heavy fire until they could be transported elsewhere. John lost all his belongings when the ship was sunk, including his glasses. He never wore glasses again. He served in the South Pacific Area until 1944 when he was sent back to the states, where he served his last year of his tour.

children of William Florence Ellis continued

Clyde - son born April 18, 1891, died 1892

Annie Belle, Sept 12, 1892, died May 25, 1936, married Jesse Richard Bennett, b. July 5, 1892, of Avon Park, Florida on July 27, 1915.

Children:

William Ellis Bennett, Sept 11, 1916, married Mary Sue Cooper b. Sept 12, 1924, on Oct 19, 1946.
Children:
Gary Ellis Bennett b. July 9, 1948
Gail Susan Bennett b. July 9, 1948

David Richard Bennett, b. July 2, 1918, m. Dec. 10, 1942 to Julia Varner Todd, b. Oct 24, 1916, d. Jan 30, 1958.
Daughter: Ann Todd Bennett, B. June 9, 1948.
Second marriage to Margie Cooper Briggs b. Nov. 9, 1922
Son of Margie: Herbert Alfred Briggs. III b. Aug 21, 1943.

Lillian Aurelia Bennett, B. July 10, 1923, m. Jan 19, 1946 to Orville Marion Brown b. March 27. _____

Children:

Marilyn Sue Brown Nov. 25, 1946
Orville Marion Brown, Jr. Jan 8, 1948
Richard Alarie Brown Jan 1, 1949
Barry Ellis Brown Feb. 28, 1957

Charles Herman Bennett b. June 26, 1928 m. Aug 4, 1950 to Shirley Street b. Mar 1, 1930 - divorced

Children:
Charles Street Bennett, Sept 14, 1951
Shelley Susan Bennett July 1, 1953
Second marriage to Tweila Elizabeth Dill b. Sept 20, 1932. on Dec 10, 1954
Children
Charles Mark Bennett, Sept 20, 1955
David Bennett Nov. 5, 1956

Second marriage of Jess R. Bennett to Annye Pearl Skipper Round b. May 18, 1905 on June 14, 1937

Children of Annie Rounds
Patti Eleanor Rounds, Sept 14, 1925
Paul Alonzo Rounds, Dec. 25, 1926

Sallie David Ellis

Children of William Florence Ellis continued

Salle David Ellis, born March 16, 1896, married Herman Gay Benton Nov 23,1919 b. Sept 28, 1893. Son of Julia Elizabeth Gay and John Marcellus Benton. Served World War I, 82nd Division

Children:

Julia Aurelia b. Oct 22, 1920 m. John Thomas Shevlin XIII Dec 14, 1944
Children:
John Thomas Shevlin XIV, Oct 21, 1945 m. Flora Tooke, Gainesville, Fla. b. Oct 25, 1945.
Children:
John Thomas XV Oct 20, 1966
William Benton June 25, 1969
Charles Murray Dec 31, 1973
Elizabeth Catherine (Betsy) b. Sept 17, 1946
Margaret Ann b. Sept 1, 1947
Barbara Virginia b. Aug 14, 1948
Charles Benton b. Nov. 6, 1949
Patricia Lee b. Feb. 24, 1951

Herman Gay, Jr. b. Aug 19, 1923 Died Dec 22, 1925.
Annabel Louise b. Dec 26, 1925 m. Joseph Collins, Nov. 29, 1947
Children:
Nancy Gay, b. Jan 16, 1952
Michael Joseph b. Aug 19, 1954
Betty Gay b. Nov. 4, 1928 m. Scrub Wilson Hardeman, Jr June 7, 1948
Son of Sarah Lucille Maroney and S. W. Hardeman
Children:
Dave Wilson was born June 9, 1949
Katherine was born Jan 18, 1952
Elizabeth Gay was born Sept 22, 1955
Brenda Gayle was born Sept 22, 1955
William Florence b. March 18, 1930 m. Mary Ray Sanders May 15, 1955
Daughter:of Era Hemrick and Walter Ray Sanders
Children:
Virginia Ann (Ginger) was born April 25, 1956
Dorothy Jill b. June 25, 1957
John Marcellus b. March 18, 1930 M. Jacquelyn Handley Brackin, March 19, 1960. Daughter of Eliza Griffin Handley and John Thomas Handley

Harry Ellis born June 26, 1932

Sara Virginia was born Oct 22, 1937

2nd Son of Joshua

Glen Bascom, b. June 8, 1958, died Dec 19, 1924
m. Cordelia Chaffin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Chaffin of Jasper County
July 13, 1856 d. Oct 2, 1912
Children:
Kerene Clementine Jan 1883. m. Marshall, son of Allen and
Armenia Stokes Ellis on Aug 8, 1906.
Children:
Clifton married Marian Koogler - Atlanta, Ga.
Henry, b. Aug 1910, m. Pauline Collins
Children:
Betty m. Henry Harmon
Children:
Loraine
Glenn Allen m. Claire Aiken
Children:
Glenn Allen, Jr.
Marshall
Danny
Bonnie
Capers, b. Oct 7, 1889 d_____ married Kerby Compton Pope
b. July 5, 1888 son of Charles and Mollie Hunter Pope, married June 6, 1914
Children:
Kerby Compton, Jr. June 6, 1916, married Thelma Wood
Cordelia Ellis, Oct 8, 1917
5 Mozelle, March 15, 1918, m. Henley Wilbur
Children:
Kathy Hunter Wilbur
Virginia m. Paul Hafer
Harvey, b. Aug 9, 1897 d. Aug 31, 1901 buried with his parents in Ellis
Cemetery.
3rd Son of Joshua

John Henry married Tommy Jones of upper Jasper County
John Henry b. Dec 6, 1860, d. Nov. 11, 1919 Married Tommie Jones
b. June 26, 1862. d._____
Children:

Ione married Mr. Richardson of Miami. She died in ~~Mixi~~ Miami and was
buried there.
Euel Eugene. b. Dec. 24, 1886 d. Nov. ~~05~~ 1935
Children:
Euel Eugene, Jr. Nov. 1 1918 married
Children:
Kathy
Dianne
William
Robert
Weyman, b._____ married Nettie Chloe Malone, dtr of Johnnie and Molly
Kelly Malone. They livednear the old home site.

The Ellis Family of Jasper County, Georgia

I feel that I can well say, "the" family as I have found none other by that name which stayed in Jasper County for any length of time. In the county records, I found a Wyatt Ellis and on inquiry from Rufus M. Smith, I also learned that Wyatt was in Jasper for a time, but he knew of no relations. I have since found that Wyatt went to Floyd County, presumable after the northwest area of the state was ceded by the Cherokee Indians, organized and distributed in the 1832 lottery.

From a Dr. Crews of Florida, who was hunting descendents of a John Ellis, I learned that this John came to the county early, and soon died there. His widow married a Smith and the story goes on to one of the move to Texas and oil millions etc. I know of no connections.

The paper that I wrote on the Ellis family in 1963 was done under rather adverse circumstances. I had come to Atlanta to stay with my brother who had recently lost his wife. He would retire early and I was left to my own devices, so I began writing family histories. I had some notes that I had made and traditions that I had heard during my 65 years in the W. F. Ellis family. Situated as I was, I was not in a position to do any research except by mail and contact with a few of the tribe.

Georgia was the youngest of the original thirteen colonies having been founded in 1733 and became a British Colony under George II. At the time of the Declaration of Independence of British rule in 1776, the organized section of Georgia consisted of 12 parishes, extending from the Florida line to the Augusta area and lay along the Atlantic coast and Savannah River. The actual area of the state extended into seven counties, and at the northern edge, the large county of Wilkes was created from unorganized territory.

Into this area came many settlers, brave souls that they were, on Headright grants of land for services rendered in establishing the new governments. These were outright Headright grants and consisted of 200 acres to the man as head of the home. If married, he received 50 acres for his wife, also 50 acres for each child or slave able to tend land. These grants were abolished in 1794 and the lottery system was substituted. This was a unique system that, I understand, was used only by Georgia. More information on it in another paper.

The Indians had been pressured to cede certain areas west of the Ogeechee River, and several counties had been formed, one being Hancock County in 1793. Into this county, as well as Wilkes and a few others, many settlers came on grants. The first seemed to have already received grants and settled in both North and South Carolina. This is the tradition concerning the Joshua Ellis family who moved on to Hancock County, as did the others in the group of families already mentioned.

Genealogiests have long noted that it was the custom for several related families and neighbors to travel and settle together, both for company and for safetys sake. This seemed to have been the case with the Ellis, the Lewis, the Knowles and Gilstraps, and maybe the Lloyds.

We have known that our ancestor, James Ellis, who first came to Jasper County in - we'll say - early 1808, came from Hancock Co., with his wife Sara Lloyd, and two small children.

D. A. R. material on Hancock County is in the Georgia State Archives. I found the record of lands of these families, some bordering lands of each other. In what later became Minter and Gilstrap District, in upper Jasper County, we find the lands of James Ellis, bordering the Gilstrap and Lewis lands. Most of the Gilstrap land and all of the Lewis land has been in the possession of our family for a number of years. Several homes and a general store, mill, gin, constituted the village of Palalto. The original Ellis land lies to the east. There, we find the family cemetery in the main copy of this paper, as well as our ancesters: So, the James Smith, and James Ellis families.

On a map that I made many years ago with the help of W. F. Ellis, and W. O. Niblett, the grave next to that of James Smith is that of a Hannah Smith, Until I began to study the Ellis and Smith history, I thought that Hannah was the wife of James, but it seems that the Smith family established a cemetery hear their home and his wife who was Elizabeth Hartsfield, is buried there. Now, I believe Hannah Smith was the Mother of our grandfather, David Harris. It could be that Hannah was related to the Abraham Smith family. She probably was living at Grandfather Harris' at the time of her death. Her husband David, had been dead since 1829 and was buried in a family lot in front of Harris Springs Church, Newton, County.

The above on Hannah is conjecture on my part.

I came into the family in 1909 and heard my husband and other speak of the Knowles family as having lived in the community and I saw the names on the Liberty Church roll, but I never knew that there was any connection with the Ellis family until recently. A decendent of James Ellis, through his son, Henry, on finding that the Ellis family came from Delaware, did some research and found the information given on the following page.

Knowles Family
of
Jasper County, Ga.

Richard Knowles - Likely a Rev. Soldier - C. I. E. or sons were.

Calendar 1680, Sussex Co. Delaware - Probate Court Records Book B, page 166
Richard Knowles, Planter, will, Jan 19, 1791
Heirs - Sons: 1. Richard 2. Thomas 3 Zechariah
4. James 5. Edmond 6 Ephriam

Daughters
1 Prudence Collingsworth. 2 Sarah Haywood
3 Aseny Prettyman 4. Abigail (wife of Joshua Ellis) So written in the will

Note: Here, we find two early generations of ancestors. Richard and his daughter, Abigail. We find Abigail mentioned again in the will of Joshua Ellis, who will later be designated as Joshua, I.

Date from Will of Joshua Ellis, I

Joshua Ellis, I Hancock Co., Ga. Rev. Soldier, Will, Jan 6, 1804
Wife, Abigail Ellis

Children: 1. Stephen 2. James 3. Elisha (youngest)
4. Sarah Mattox 5. Joshua, Jr. Will probated 1804

***

Line of John Bowden Ellis

Thus, we find the family line of Richard Knowles.

I	Joshua Ellis,	Died 1804 -	Wife	Abigail Knowles, dtr. of Richard Knowles	
II	James Ellis,	Died 1853	Wife	Sarah Loyd of James Lloyd	
III	Joshua Ellis,	1816 - 1883	Wife	Kerene Smith, dtr of Abram Smith Sara Rosser	
IV	William Florence Ellis	1855 - 1933	Wife	Aurelia Harris dtr of David Harris and Nancy Mitchum	
V	John Bowden Ellis,	1881 - 1960		Clara Thompson dau of Seaborn Thompson Sophronia Strickland	
VI	John B. Ellis, Jr.	1912	Wife	Artie Lorene Ware 1943	Augustua B. Ware Carrie Kemp
				Margaret Browder 1963	Arthur Browder Beulah Johnson
VII	John B. Ellis, III	1948		Joy Minter	Byron Minter Virginia Minter

John Bowden Ellis Line, continued

I Abraham Smith M. Sarah Rosser Son James Rosser

II James Rosser Smith M. Elizabeth Hartsfield Dau Kerene Smith

III Joshua Ellis M. Kerene Smith Son William Florence Ellis

IV William Florence Ellis M. Aurelia Harris Son John B. Ellis

V John B. Ellis M. Clara Thompson Son John B. Ellis, Jr.

VI John B. Ellis, Jr. M. Lorene Ware Son John B. Ellis, III

VII John B. Ellis, III M. Joy Minter

Loyd Line

I James Loyd wife unknown Dau Sara Loyd

II James Ellis M. Sara Loyd Son Joshua

III Joshua Ellis M. Kerene Smith Son William F. Ellis

III William F. Ellis M. Aurelia Harris Son John B. Ellis

IV John B. Ellis M. Clara Thompson Son John B. Ellis, Jr

V John B. Ellis, Jr M. Lorene Ware Son John B. Ellis, III

VI John B. Ellis, III M. Joy Minter

The James Ellis Family
of Jasper County, Ga.

1974

The above heading is being used as there were two other Ellis families in the county for a time.

Some ten years ago I wrote a paper on the Ellis family who came to the area in north central Jasper County at the time when the state of Georgia was being fully organized and the lands were being distributed in grants to those eligible by some service to the new government.

At the time of the Declaration of Independence, Georgia consisted of twelve English colonies, that were immediately formed into counties and all lay along the Atlantic coast and up the Savannah River as far as Augusta.

Many had moved into the northeastern section of the state and were qualified by one year residence for the 1807 lottery of grants, and thus led to the establishment of the Ellis, Lewis, Gilstrap, Knowles and the Loyd families in the county. The lottery story will be found in the back of the book along with any personal facts each family may want to place in it.

A book on the Ellis family is published by "The American Genea logical Research Institute", Arlington, Virginia. They state that all Americans are descended from immigrants and it is fitting that you know about your ancestors. They also state that if your ancestors came before 1800, the chances are good that you need look no further. The listing that they give contains all known recorded immigrants of the Ellis family for that period.

Early Ellis Family

We are advised by genealogists to begin family research with the family traditions. One thing that I have learned in the years I have been collecting these traditions is that they are not always true, but that there is usually some background for them.

I find that the facts in this book on family research gives credence to several traditions that members of this Ellis family loved to tell.

The earliest ancestor is not known but the story always began with, "Our family came from Wales". This story likely is true as we have the information that a number of immigrants came from the north of Wales and the list of those coming from there in the first 100 years to America follows. The Greeks claim that Ellises were first known in Greece and the story in the book dates the family back to Bible times. The names in the 1790 census are mostly taken from the Bible, and we have not only Greecian cities visited and the language for the basic names in much of the New Testament.

Concerning the name, "Ellis", it seems that this name goes back to the early centuries for its origin.

Like many names today, this family derives its name from the eleventh and twelfth centuries or earlier. This was at a time when pious men chose surnames from the only bok that they knew, The Bible.

The name, Ellis, as developed, means "God is Salvation". The name, Elijah, means "Jehovah is my God". Both are from the ancient word, "El", meaning, "Creator".

In the year 1000, a group of men, believing the second coming would happen in that year, met and took the surname, "Ellis", from the name Elijah. The Greeks claim that the name originated in their country and it may well have done so. We give those from Wales as named in a list of 50 early comers.

Immigrants from Wales

The first one was a David Ellis: emigrated from Wales to Jamestown, Virginia on Board the "Mary Margaret", on or prior to February 16, 1623, married to Margaret.

Rowland Ellis, probably emigrated from Merienethshire, Wales to Pennsylvania in 1682.

Thomas Ellis, emigrated from Dalmen, Wales to Virginia in September 1698 - indentured servant.

Thomas Ellis, emigrated from Pembroke, Wales to Pennsylvania in 1683 and was married to Ellen.

William Ellis emigrated from Clentastelh, Wales to America in 1692 - indentured servant.

William Ellis emigrated from Merientheshire, Wales to either Pennsylvania or Maryland on board the ship Experiment in 1699.

It is not likely we will ever know just whom our first ancestor to America was, but the "David" would be my choice if I could take my pick. Quoting the book "Coming as an indentured servant was not always a bad deal". In many cases a man would simply promise to work out the price of the trip. One of George Washington's early tutors was a school teacher who came as an indentured servant.

Heraldry

Heraldry is highly regarded in the United States for it's aesthetic value, Historic qualities, the symbols, devices and colors associated with any particular surname tell a story of our ancestors. The oldest coat of arms known in England is that of Sir Henry Elys of Yorkshire. His is quite famous as it appears in the first document of Heraldry, the Roll of Arms of King Edward II. This roll of arms

consisted of Knights present in support of the kind at the seige of Caerlaverock in Scotland in the year 1300.

Several members of the Ellis family were classed in the English nobility. Several landmarks bear the name "Ely" in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. In Scotland the home of the famous Scottish peot, Robert Burns, was named Ellisland. An Ellis Coat of Arms will be found in the main paper.

Tradition
No. 2

We have the tradition that the Ellis family lived in Delaware before coming to the newly opened area in the state of Georgia, the youngest of the thirteen colonies which had been only a string of parishes established along the Atlantic coast and up the Savannah River as far as Augusta.

These parishes had been established as counties in 1773 after the Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary war had been won by 1782 and the organization of the vast area of the "new government" was in progress. In order to finance the expenses it was first necessary to get the people settled on the land.

To do this, the land was first surveyed into large districts, the surveyed into land lots. These lots were first fiven in what was known as "Headright Grants" to those who were eligible by some service, I quote - in helping establish the new government. These grants gave the head of the house "200 acres plus 50 acres for his wife, 50 acres for each child and also each slave able to tend land".

We do not at present definitely know anything of our first Ellis ancestors - beyond the tradition that they came from Delaware to Hancock County in a newly organized area in Middle Georgia, until recently a descendent of Joshua Ellis and wife Abigail Knowles, has traced the family to Sussex County, Delaware. Very likely this family and others involved, first came to Virginia, and later were in that part that was cut off and established as the state of Delaware. That data follows and confirms the tradition that the Ellis family and also the Knowles ancestor, Richard Knowles, lived in Delaware as did Joshua Ellis.

The book on Ellis research gives only the Ellis names in the 1790 census records. We have the tradition which I have heard repeated in at least three of the families. The story is - that the family were in North Carolina for a time, that one remained there, one came on to Hancock County, Georgia, and one went on to South Georgia. In the 87 Ellis male names that we find in the list of those in North Carolina in 1790, we find only one Joshua, only one Stephen, two by the name Elisha and several by the name of James. We suppose that our Ellis family is in this group.

Tradition
No 3

Several years ago I found the names of a Joshua Ellis, Revolutionary Soldier, in Hancock County. We know this Joshua to be our ancestor by the name of his wife, Abigail Knowles, and names of children. We have information from a Mr. Lewis of Shady Dale, Jasper, County, that a group of families - namely: The Ellis, Knowles, Lewis, Gilstrap and likely the Loyds were in South Carolina at one time and there was at least one intermarriage there involving an Ellis. There was a Lewis, Gilstrap connection also.

We do not know when our ancestor, Joshua came to Hancock County, which was not created until 1793. We give the early record on this family. There are land records of these families in Hancock County in the Archives as well as in Hancock County court House.

The following data was researched by Mrs. Dorothy Barnum, a descendent of Henry, the oldest son of James, our ancestor.

Sussex County, Delaware
Calendar 1680 - 1800. Probate Records, Book B. Page 166

Richard Knowles, Planter
Heirs - Sons (1) Richard, Jr. (2) Thomas (3) Zachariah
(4) James (5) Edmund (6) Ephriam

Daughters (1) Prudence Collingsworth (2) Elizabeth Vinson
(3) Sarah Haygood (4) Aseny Prettyman
(5) Abigail, wife of Joshua Ellis (so given in the will)
Will probated March 5, 1791

In the records of Hancock County, Georgia - date June 6, 1804

Will of Joshua Ellis, Rev. Soldier, wife Abigail

Children - (1) Stephen (2) James (3) Elisha (youngest)
(4) Sarah Mattox

Hancock County created in 1793 . Sparta is the county seat.

This brings us to the lottery of 1807 in which we know the tradition that our ancestor, James Ellis, son of Joshua, made a fortunate draw when the large district of land that was in accession given by the Creek Indians on June 16, 1802 and called Baldwin. This area andwas divided into several counties, one being named Randolph for the eminant John Randolph of Virginia, but it was changed to "Jasper" in 1813 by Congress on account of Randolph's stand in the 1812 war policies. More on this county and the Ellis family in Jasper County in the main copy for which this paper is written to give the infomation obtained recently, that to me, verifies the traditions told around the firesides of our early forefathers.

We have one more tradition concerning Elizabeth Hartsfield, wife of James Smith. All we have known about her definitely is that she came from Oglethorpe County. I have found some material as a possible clue that will be told and placed in the back of the book along with a story of the lotteries.

We know that ancestor, James Smith, was the son of Abraham Smith and wife Sara Rosser who likely lived in the area of Minter and Gilstrap district whil this section of the state was in Baldwin County. They had a son, James Rosser and three daughters, according to the will of Abraham, the first recorded in the new County of Jasper.

Recently, I have found that a Luke Williams and Sarah Anna, his wife, daughter of Godfrey Hartsfield and wife, Anna Sims, were settled in the same general area in Jasper County. This family had come from Orlethorpe County also and we find many Hartsfields had settled in the middle Georgia counties from Hancock County on across the state as the lands were distributed.

We find in the early records of Jasper County, the name Allen Hartsfield, and also Middleton Hartsfield, also an Allen Williams; since we find our ancestor Elizabeth named a son 'Allen Williams", we believe that this is our Elizabeth Hartsfield ancestor. Another clue is she had a brother named Euel and this name shows up in the Ellis family.

I seems that my husband is descended from Godfrey Hartsfield and I am a descendent of his brother Richard, whose Revolutionary War record I have, and it states that probably all of the sons of Andrew Hartsfield and wife, Sara Lynn, were member of the North Carolina Militia, Revolutionary War. (See Hartsfield Story)

The record that I have is that John, Paul and Richard Hartsfield and families came to the area that became first, Wilkes in 1782, then later the county of Oglethorpe was cut off from it in 1793. It is from one of these our Elizabeth came, probably born by 1800.

Godfrey, a physician, evidently lived in Oglethorpe County. He was a brother of my maternal ancestor, Richard, both sons of Andrew and born in Pennslyvania. Maybe the fact, that a group of people there were called Pennsylvania Dutch but were really of German Extraction, led to this tradition. William F. Ellis told me that his mother was Dutch.

In the first Record we havd of Andrew Hartsfield, his name was Andreas Hartesfeldt - Manhatten Island.